

The airing of an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election by Sinclair Broadcast Group is a clear abuse of media power and evidence of why media consolidation hurts democracy. The public airwaves are just that --public. They should not be used to further ideological, political interests of big media companies. But when large companies control the airwaves, this is what happens.

Serving the public interest means serving the interests of the communities where the media companies operate. This means getting substantive news and discussion about issues of local and national importance. The license renewal process could be used to achieve this result. It is an important way of showing Sinclair that the law regarding the media's duty to protect the public interest matters. We need to strengthen, not weaken, media ownership rules and protect democratic values through a license renewal process that has teeth. Thank you.